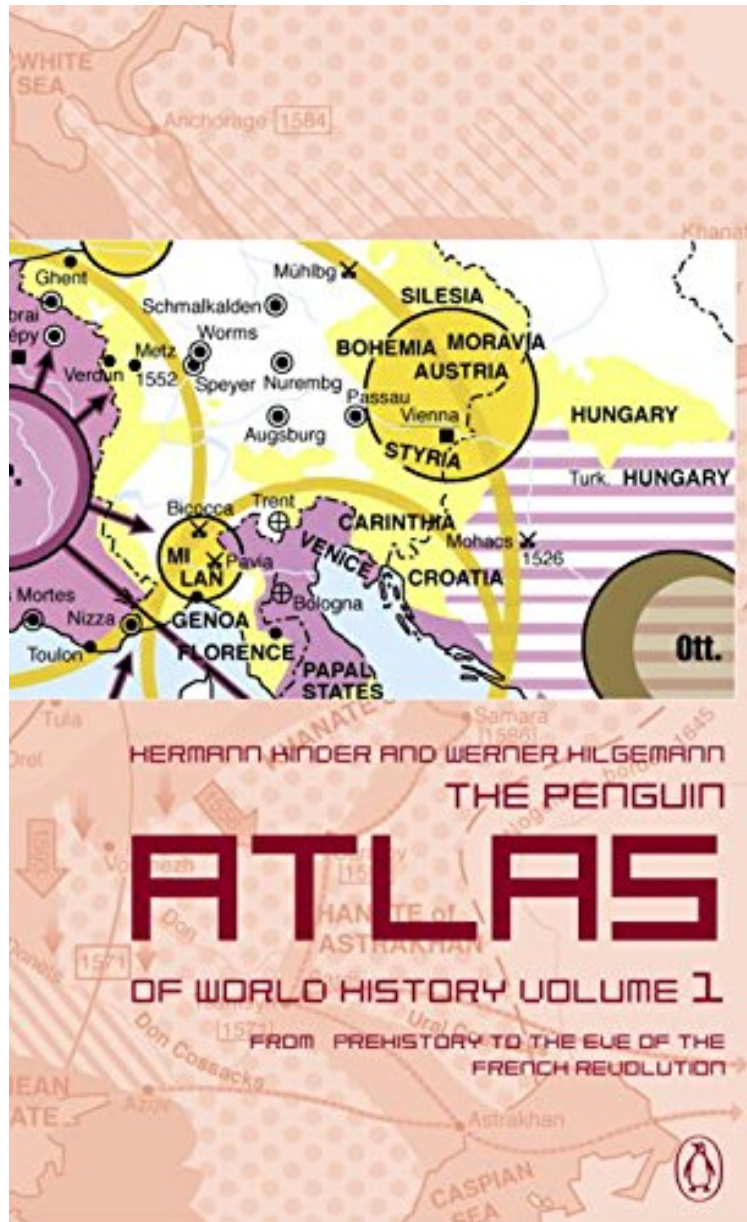


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The Penguin Atlas of World History: Volume 1: From Prehistory to the Eve of the French Revolution (Penguin Reference Books)

Hermann Kinder, Werner Hilgemann
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Hermann Kinder, Werner Hilgemann : The Penguin Atlas of World History: Volume 1: From Prehistory to the Eve of the French Revolution (Penguin Reference Books) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it

would be worth my time, and all praised *The Penguin Atlas of World History: Volume 1: From Prehistory to the Eve of the French Revolution* (Penguin Reference Books):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. History's Bible
By Kochevnik
This and Volume II are reprints of the old Anchor Atlas of World History. I received that edition as a birthday present when I was 10, and it played a huge role in the development of my passion for history. Leaving through the pages year after year wore the old edition out for day to day use (it is still faithfully preserved!), and I was happy to replace it with the reprint. For the size, portability, and cost, you cannot do any better than this. Yes, the print is tiny, and much of it is basically written in shorthand. My dad read through it back in the day and wondered who "Gks" were (the Greeks). The maps are detailed, but stylized, and can definitely use geographic terms in somewhat misleading or cryptic ways. The book isn't Euro-centric: it's German centric. I suppose this makes sense as, if I recall, it was originally published as a supplement to a German history TV documentary aired in the late 60s. But the upshot is that you *will* know everything you never wanted to know about the Ottonians, the Investiture crisis, the Hohenstaufens, the Interregnum, the House of Luxemburg, etc. etc.: Germany gets five maps with the same number of pages of text for the High Middle Ages (900-1200) alone. East Asia gets its history from about 200 to 1200 squished into a page. But overall, it is still an excellent reference, with useful dynastic family trees, schematic diagrams, and very detailed overviews of world history topics. The sections on ancient history are simply great as a reference. It is indispensable for the historian.
8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Pound for pound the best there is...no contest
By Jacques Talbot
I have loved maps and history for longer than I care to admit and I was fortunate enough to have a father who shared these interests and provided a fertile and far-ranging "garden" of books for my edification and enjoyment growing up. One of my favorites was this book. The story skips ahead many years--I decided to look for this book, which had been out of print or at least unavailable for a long time. I found it here on and ordered it, along with another larger highly touted atlas from another publisher (rated #1 by another reviewer). Much to my delight and surprise, the Penguin atlas has aged quite well (to be expected given the period covered). Its strength lies in the abundance and thoroughness of the map coverage--where other atlases give one map, this one often gives three or more--and in the "extracurricular" material such as diagrams illustrating governmental organization. Incidentally, I was sorely disappointed in the other atlas, which cost far more and sported foolish and uninformative cartographic projections as well as such vast lacunae in coverage as to render it virtually worthless as a serious reference. As I see it, the heart of any atlas worth its salt must be its maps and this compact, user-friendly little volume offers such a wealth of these that it exposes other historical atlases as the patchy, inadequate waste of paper most of them are. I don't buy an atlas for text--though this atlas has excellent if necessarily skeletal narrative accompaniment--I buy it for the maps, to complement my reading. There's nothing sillier than an "atlas" that overdoes it on the text at the expense of the maps; oddly enough, Penguin also publishes some of what I consider the worst atlases available today (see their atlas of the Roman Empire for a prime example)--go figure. Really this atlas does everything right. My sole complaint is the small size, but this could just as easily be considered a plus (for portability, ease of use, etc.); if only there were a large format historical atlas to match--I'm still looking for a worthy counterpart.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book!
By Amy B.
This book is wonderful! It contains much more than maps. It has a timeline of important world events with a discussion of the significance of the events. It also has charts showing the structure of ancient governments and the genealogy of the thrones of Europe. It is clear and concise. Very enjoyable reading and a useful resource!

This wide-ranging, chronological summary of the main cultural, scientific, religious, and political events from the beginning of world history to the eve of the French Revolution is accompanied by detailed maps that clarify complex historical situations and make this an essential reference book for students and for the home.

About the Author
Hermann Kinder
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